

Appl. No. 10/676,927
Amdt. Dated April 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated October 15, 2004

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, the U.S. Patent Examiner has indicated that Claim Nos. 1 – 56 are pending in the application. This statement is believed to be in error. From an inspection of the application as filed, Applicant notes that 53 claims were originally submitted and thus presumes that Claim Nos. 1 – 53 are currently pending in the subject patent application. Claim Nos. 1 – 39, 47, and 49 – 53 have been allowed; Claim Nos. 40 – 45 and 48 are rejected; and Claim No. 46 is objected to. The U.S. Patent Examiner has made no statement regarding the Specification or drawings.

The U.S. Patent Examiner has rejected Claim No. 48 for the reasons stated on Page No. 1, Paragraph Nos. 1 and 2 of the Office Action. In response to the rejection of Claim No. 48, Applicant has amended Claim No. 48 to properly depend from independent Claim No. 47 as presumed by the U.S. Patent Examiner.

The U.S. Patent Examiner has rejected Claim Nos. 40 – 43 for the reasons stated on Page Nos. 2 – 3, Paragraph Nos. 3 – 4 of the Office Action. Further, the U.S. Patent Examiner has rejected Claim Nos. 44 – 45 for the reasons stated on Page Nos. 2 – 3, Paragraph Nos. 3 and 5 of the Office Action. In response to the rejections of Claim Nos. 40 – 45, Applicant has elected to cancel the claims are reflected in the Claim Listing presented hereinabove.

The U.S. Patent Examiner has further objected to Claim No. 46 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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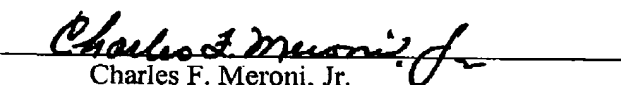
Applicant has presented new Claim No. 54, which claim incorporates the subject matter of now canceled Claim Nos. 40, 42, and 46.

It is believed that this amended patent application is now in immediate condition for allowance, and such action is kindly requested. If, after a review of this Amendment, issues remain which may be resolved by a telephone interview, the U.S. Patent Examiner is cordially invited to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

If attempts to reach the undersigned attorney are not successful, please be advised that Christopher J. Scott, Registration No. 48,647, may also be contacted with regard to this matter. Mr. Scott has been in regular communication with the undersigned regarding the Office Action and this Amendment. Further, Mr. Scott is listed under our Firm's Customer Number with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, namely, Customer Number 30114, and thus may be deemed a proper representative of Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,
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